

Remarks

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Interview granted on October 16, 2006.

Claims 1-44, 46-56 and 58-68 are currently pending in the application. As requested by the Examiner during the Interview, this Amendment is being filed to show claim 1 in its issued form including corrections made by the Certificate of Correction dated October 7, 2003. An explanation of the support in the Specification for all changes to the original patent claims and all new claims is also provided below, in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.173(c).

Furthermore, Applicants are pursuing a Supplemental Declaration as requested by the Examiner during the Interview.

Basis in The Specification for Changes to Original Claims and New Claims

Claim 17 is an original claim that has been amended to include a comma in line 14 of that claim. Because the amendment to claim 17 relates to correction of a typographical error, it is believed to be unnecessary to provide basis in the specification for the change.

New claims 44, 46-56 and 58-68 are fully supported by the Specification of the issued patent. For example, all limitations of independent claims 44, 56, 64 and 66 are disclosed in column 3, line 27, through column 7, line 63, and/or in the drawings. Furthermore, independent claims 44 and 56 generally correspond to issued claims 38 and 1, respectively, but the new claims more broadly recite, at least in part, that which Applicants regard as the subject matter of their invention.

Dependent claims 46 and 59, which each recite that "the first and second console housings are configured to be disposed on a headliner of the vehicle when the assembly is mounted in the vehicle," are supported by column 3, line 65, through column 4, line 1, for example. Similarly, claim 47, which recites that the assembly further comprises a headliner

and that “the first and second console housings are disposed on the headliner when the assembly is mounted in the vehicle,” finds support in the same section of the specification.

Dependent claims 49-51 and 58, which include “electrical wiring associated with one of the rails,” find support in column 5, lines 19-24. The recitation in claim 52 that “the second console housing is located rearward of the first console housing when the assembly is mounted in the vehicle” is supported by column 4, lines 19-22 of the Specification.

Dependent claim 53, which recites that “the module includes walls that extend between the rails when the module is secured to the rails, the walls cooperating to define a storage receptacle,” is supported by Figures 1 and 2, for example. Likewise, the recitation in claim 54 that “the module defines a storage receptacle that is disposed entirely between the rails when the module is secured to the rails” is supported by Figures 1 and 2. Furthermore, claim 55, which recites that “the rails are configured to extend longitudinally in the vehicle when the assembly is mounted in the vehicle, and the module is longitudinally positionable along the rails,” is supported by column 4, line 66, through column 5, line 2, and Figure 1, for example.

Dependent claim 60, which recites that the assembly comprises a headliner that includes “an overlay that defines the at least one securement surface,” is supported by column 7, lines 49-51. Dependent claim 61, which recites that “the center console housing comprises a pair of spaced apart rails, and each rail includes a securement surface disposed about an outer periphery of the rail,” is supported by column 5, lines 17-19.

The recitation in dependent claim 62 that “the at least one securing member comprises two gripping portions, each gripping portion being engageable with the securement surface of a respective rail,” finds support at column 5, lines 40-44. Furthermore, the recitation in dependent claim 63 that “the center console housing includes a pair of sidewalls that define a cavity for receiving the module” is supported by column 6, lines 55-63.

Independent claims 64 and 66 were introduced as dependent claims of claim 56, and were rewritten in independent form during prosecution. The recitation in claim 64 that “the at least one securement surface and the at least one securing member comprise a hook and loop fastening system” is supported in the specification at column 6, lines 58-63, and column 7, lines 40-58 for example. The recitation in claim 66 that “the module includes an upper surface that includes the at least one securing member, a lower surface, a storage area disposed between the upper and lower surfaces, and a flap portion that is configured to overlap the lower surface to enclose the storage area” is supported in the specification at column 7, lines 17-24, and Figures 3-4.

Dependent claim 65, which depends from claim 56 and recites that “the module is longitudinally positionable along the at least one securement surface,” finds support at column 4, line 66, through column 5, line 2, for example.

Dependent claims 67 and 68, which each recite that “each of the at least one securement surface forms only an outer surface of the console housing,” are supported by Figure 3, for example.

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Conclusion

Applicants have made a genuine effort to respond to each of the Examiner's objections in advancing the prosecution of this case. As noted above, a Supplemental Declaration is currently being pursued, and will be forwarded upon execution. If any additional issues need to be resolved, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at his earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

Adam J. Canni et al.

By Jeffrey M. Sjuma
Jeffrey M. Sjuma
Reg. No. 35,700
Attorney/Agent for Applicant

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BROOKS KUSHMAN P.C.
1000 Town Center, 22nd Floor
Southfield, MI 48075-1238
Phone: 248-358-4400
Fax: 248-358-3351